the construction of Banspani-Daitari Railway Link over 146 K.M. and if so, at what cost; and

(b) what is the amount spent so far on the construction till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since no work has been approved on Daitari-Banspani rail link no expenditure has been incurred on the project.

Consumer movement

1193. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to aid, support and encourage consumer movement in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate support and direction has not been forth-coming from Government to voluntary organisation dealing with Consumer Protection Movement;

(c) the details of steps taken in 1990 so far to increase public awareness about consumer movement;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps in different parts of the country to encourage the general public to form associations and organisation to demand for better service, quality products and stop over-pricing;

(e) the details of the concrete steps taken in this regard;

(f) whether Government have sought any public cooperation in combating the recent price rise, both through awareness and economising consumption of scarce items; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) to (g) Government has taken a number of steps to develop a strong and broadbased consumer movement in the country. Such steps include giving representation to the representatives of consumer organisations in various Committees/groups formed for the welfare of consumers; amendment of major legislations such as Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, etc., to empower the consumers and registered consumer organisations to file complaints in the Court; enactment and enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986; organisation of National, regional and State level seminars; publishing of literature in the field of consumer protection and distributing them free of cost; institution of 2 National Awards for Youths and Consumer Organisations, etc. The three-tier redressal machinery under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides an effective legal forum to consumer organisations to redress grievances in the field of defective goods, deficient services, unfair trade practices, etc. Since 1990, Government has re-introduced the scheme of financial assistance to voluntary consumer organisations. It has also started a weekly programme entitled 'Apne Adhikar' from 28 Kendras of AIR. In addition, it has conducted one training programme in Pune for voluntary consumer organisations. One booklet and 4 post card size material in the field of consumer protection have also been published and distributed free of charge to voluntary consumer organisations;

Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices and is taking long-term and short-term measures for this purpose.

इलाहाबाद और वाराणसी के बीच छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में परिवर्तन करना

1194. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार इलाहाबाद और वाराणसी के बीच की छोटी लाइन को